

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/960,297**
Amendment dated August 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action of **June 4, 2003**

REMARKS

Claim 1 - 3 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. The applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 4, 2003.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities. On Page 8 of the specification, the paragraphs containing the abbreviations "CGI", "CPU", "ROM" and "RAM" have been amended to include the text of what these abbreviations stand for. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention.

Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration claim 1 has been amended. Therefore withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nethery (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,798).

Nethery describes a seller computer system accessible by a client computer system over the Internet. The seller's computer system includes a product information unit that supplies product information to the client. The product information may be viewed on the client computer system.

The present invention is a product information system having a main server (10) and several subservers (30). The main server (10) has a user information storing section (19) that links the accepted data and identification information with address data of the subserver (30) installed in a region for the user. In addition the main server (10) has an address searching section (14) that searches through data stored in the user information storing section (19) and obtains address data of the subserver (30) assigned to the said user. The subserver (30) includes a product information storing section (36) that stores product information. A product information providing section (32) provides the product information to the user upon request.

At the outset it should be noted the Examiner admits that Nethery does not disclose anything related to a plurality of servers as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Nethery does not disclose a user information storing means for mutually linking and storing identification information assigned to a user and an address of a subserver that controls the user as recited in claim 1. Further, Nethery does not disclose a searching means for receiving identification information from a user, searching through data stored in the said user information storing

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means, and obtaining an address of a subserver which controls the user as recited in claim 1.

Finally, Nethery does not disclose a sending means for sending the address of the subserver obtained by the said searching means to a terminal unit of the user as recited in claim 1.

However, the Examiner takes Official Notice that these features are well known in the art. The Examiner's grounds of rejection is respectfully traversed. Further, under MPEP §2144.03 it is requested that a reference be supplied by the Examiner describing a user information storing means, a searching means, and a sending means. The Applicant is making this request since failure to make such a request would result in the Examiner's assertions becoming admitted prior art.

Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A product information system in which a main server and a plurality of subservers, each of the plurality of subservers is disposed in a set region, can be mutually connected via a network, wherein the said main server comprises: a user information storing means for mutually linking and storing identification information assigned to a user and an address of a subserver which controls the said user; a searching means for receiving identification information from a user, searching through data stored in the said user information storing means, and obtaining an address of a subserver which controls the said user; and a sending means for sending the address of the subserver obtained by the said searching means to a terminal unit of the user, and the said each subserver comprises: a product information storing means for storing product information; and a product information providing means for providing product information stored in the said product information storing means in response to a request from the said user terminal.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nethery (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,798) is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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